

**Andrew Jackson to Martin Van Buren, August 7, 1837,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO PRESIDENT VAN BUREN.

Hermitage. August 7, 1837.

My dear sir, Your letters of the 21st July last and that of the 28th marked private, are both before me, and I regret very much the mistake Mr Swartwout has made about the wheat. it has safely arrived, and if I could, I would send it to you but the lowness of the waters and lateness of the season will prevent me. I regret this the more as I fear our climate will not prove congenial to its production, but I will as you have requested, distribute it thro our country, and make a fair experiment with it. We are now making an experiment with the wheat from Egypt, but either from the unusual dry and cold spring, or that the climate is unfavorable to its production, its product has not been good this season—we will again try it by sewing in the fall.

Your letter without date but Postmarked July 28th and marked private I have read it with much pleasure, and satisfaction.

I inclose you an extract from the letter of the Honble. James Buchannan, which will give you the feelings of the great Democratic family of Pennsylvania. it may be of use to you to know them, as they coincide with your own views and I have no doubt, will prove to be the sentiments of the Democracy of the whole union, and I might add of the whole world. All republics are careful for the best of reasons, to keep seperate, church and State, and I am sure we ought, from the experience we have had, to be as careful to seperate the government from all connections with Banks—nothing can be more

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dangerous to a republican government than their corrupting influence, it is equal, if not more dangerous than combining church and state. I therefore rejoice, that one among first acts of your administration will be a recommendation to separate the Government from all connection with all Banks. This will secure to the people in due time by the collection and disbursements of the revenue in gold and silver coin, a metallic currency as far as its Labour is concerned, and in war, from their influence or injury that might accrue by withholding from the government its funds. What situation, let me ask would we now be in if war was raging with great Britain. This outrageous combination of the Banks to suspend specie payments at the bidding of Biddle and Bearings, and for the benefit of a foreign power ought to admonish us of the value of the adage, "in peace prepare for war", and now to cut assunder *all ties* between the government and all Banks, and I am sure you will be sustained in this by every republican in the U. States, by recommend'g this, with a reduction, forthwith, of the tariff to the wants of the Government, and I pledge myself, that it will prostrate forever any, and every member in congress, who opposes its adoption. The suspension of specie payments by the banks, and the issues of shinplasters to take the place of the circulation of specie has well prepared the people to sustain in this step—the people, are crying out against these frauds upon them every where.

This outrageous attempt of the Banks to rob the Treasury, bankrupt the government, destroy its credit both at home and abroad, deserves the severest rebuke that the administration can give them, and the great injury done by the depreciation of their paper to the whole labouring community, requires that all the energy of the administration should be put into operation to repair this injury, and the Banks coerced to resume specie payments, or be treated as insolvent, and their paper put out of circulation. the only power that can be exercised by the Executive, or Congress, is to coerce them to pay to the government its deposits or resume specie payments, if they refuse, to bring suit for them; this would at once prevent the people from further imposition by the banks.

I have full confidence in your firmness—it will, be, you see from the extract inclosed, put to the test. you will I am sure meet it with a noble and manly firmness, and the people will

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as nobly sustain you. Listen not to councils recommending a temporising policy, for be assured if adopted you are gone, and no real friend will advise such a course.

Biddle is in the field, all the State Banks have combined with him to resist the resumption of specie payments as long as possible for now they are reaping great gains, bank paper is depreciating daily, and Biddle expects to profit by it and to obtain a recharter of his Bank. You must meet this with firmness, and coerce the Deposit Banks to resume specie payments, if the[y] fail bring suit. the terror of this will, if they are solvent, compell them to resume specie payments by which they can only hope to receive indulgence from the government, and the only terms on which lenity ought to be granted, as it is the only way that justice can be obtained for a suffering community now groaning under the weight of injury the banks have inflicted upon them by the depreciation of their paper, whilst the Banks are selling specie at premiums, and buying in their paper at a discount of from 20 to 25 percent. you will find on inquiry that in every place where banks are the brokers are doing good business in selling speci[e] at a high premium. I have read with attention that part of your letter which relates to my friend Mr. H. Toland, and whilst I sympathise with him in his distresses I fully appreciate the course you have adopted. draw to your aid none that will not heart and hand sustain you fully in the execution of the laws, and the faithful administration of the government, agreeable to your *own vews of your duty* to the great democratic majority of this union. you have long known my creed, “no temporising”—but a just and fearless execution of the great and responsible trust that the great body of the democratic republican [party] have reposed in you.

I thank you my friend for your kind solicitude about my health. it is improving slowly, but much checkered. my vision is somewhat impaired, by a defect, without pain, in my right eye, by a white something approaching the sight, but I think it is improving from the application of a weak solution of sugar of Lead.

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I rejoice to hear of the unanimity of your cabinet. present me kindly to them all and their amiable families, and may god bless you with success, and a triumphant administration, is the fervent prayer of your friend.

My whole family unite with me in kind salutations to you and your whole household in which Col Earle and Major Donelson and his dear little ones cordially unite. please say to Mrs. Forsythe that her godson, promises every thing that fond parents have a right to expect,
your friend